behind some houses," he said, adding that an easement allows access between two houses. "It butts up to St. Johns property, which nobody can hunt."

The monster buck didn't show up on any of his cameras at first, but then he put a camera up near the easement.

"I got him immediately, almost every night on camera," Dommie said.

Dommie figured he would never see the deer again, but he kept showing up every night.

"That deer would not cross in front of that shooting house," Dommie said. "He would cross in between the houses that are on the back side. So, I put a ladder stand up 15-20 yards inside my property, looking at the back of the shooting house, and that's where I killed him."

When gun season started, Dommie couldn't hunt the first day because several of his neighbor's dogs had gotten loose the day before and ran through his property during the night.

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than six inches shy of Florida's all-time top 10. The buck had broken off two tines weeks before the hunt, damage that likely cost it a spot among the state's top 10. Even so, it stands as a once-in-a-lifetime Florida buck for Veasey.







It worked out, however, because on the second day of the season, Dommie sealed the deal on the monster buck.

According to Dommie's game camera, a 10-point buck had passed through the area around 4:30 a.m. that morning.

Dommie got to his stand before daybreak, but didn't have to wait long, because it was only about 15 to 20 minutes after daylight that the deer came in, giving Dommie a 40-yard shot.

"I couldn't see all of the horns. All I could see was that the main beams were big. I could see his chest, and I shot him. I thought it was the 10-point until he fell. Then, I realized I got that one.

"He was following a doe. None of the other bucks were following does at that time. I don't know if maybe he's getting older."

After the shot, Dommie called several of his buddies to break the news.

"I had shown a few people pictures of him before I got him. When I got him, I called them, and they came over and helped me get it loaded.

"The game warden that scored him, I showed him the pictures because he had just gotten broken off two or three weeks before I shot him," Dommie said.

"He was 27 points, and then the one horn that broke off was forked, so it would have been a 28. The biologist said he would have been easily over 180 if it had not been broken off."

Still, Dommie has no complaints over his deer.

"It's, of course, the biggest deer I've ever killed," he said. "Up to that point, I'd never even killed a 100-inch deer."